

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News and Information

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**July 14, 2005**

### **WELCH NAMED TO HEALTH CARE, BASE PRESERVATION STUDY GROUPS**

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Peggy Welch (D-Bloomington) has been appointed to legislative committees designed to study improvements in the delivery of health care services, as well as ways that state government can help military bases like the Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center remain open.

Welch's appointments to the Military Base Planning Council, the Select Joint Commission on Medicaid Oversight and the Community and Home Options to the Institutional Care for the Elderly and Disabled (CHOICE) Board were announced this week by legislative leaders.

"These groups do the background and study of the major issues that the Legislature will consider in its next session," Welch said. "I am pleased that the leaders in the Indiana General Assembly feel that I can play a substantive role in shaping policy in these areas, since they have a large impact on so many people across our state."

The base council was created this year by the Legislature to identify public infrastructure and other community support needed to improve mission efficiencies and develop and expand military facilities in Indiana.

"Obviously, this group will work with Gov. Mitch Daniels and Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman in the ongoing efforts to keep the Crane center open in the years to come," said Welch, who was part of a state team of experts who appeared before the federal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recently to detail Crane's importance at the national and state levels.

"One of the council's duties will be to identify ways that state and local government, universities and the private sector can join forces to enhance the economic potential for military bases in Indiana," she continued. "There is a wealth of expertise available at these facilities that we can tap in finding new business opportunities, and I think we can explore that type of expansion in the months to come."

Earlier this year, the Legislature also decided to expand the membership of the state's CHOICE board to include lawmakers. The board, originally created in 1992, is designed to establish long-term goals that enable the state to provide long-term care for the elderly and disabled in their homes.

"Home health care remains one of the best options available to protect our seniors and those with disabilities," Welch said. "This board enables us to explore ways to improve the delivery of services and provide a continuum of care that emphasizes individual independence, dignity and privacy."

Welch's final assignment places her with a commission that investigates all matters related to Medicaid, including implementation of the children's health insurance program (CHIP) and a case mix reimbursement system, as well as possible remedies that can reduce the time needed to process claims and eliminate backlogs, delays and errors.

"With the Daniels Administration proposing a massive overhaul of family and social services in Indiana, this commission will be on the front line in making sure that any changes place a priority on helping those most in need of care," Welch concluded.